



South African  
NATIONAL PARKS

# PI@ntInvasive-Kruger

An online collaborative platform aids  
alien plant management

RW Taylor<sup>1</sup>, T Marshall<sup>1</sup>, DI Thompson<sup>1</sup>, LC Foxcroft<sup>2</sup>, & T le Bourgeois<sup>3\*</sup>

\*Corresponding author: [thomas.le\\_bourgeois@cirad.fr](mailto:thomas.le_bourgeois@cirad.fr)



As part of the PI@ntNet initiative, **PI@ntInvasive-Kruger** aims at assisting stakeholders with **data collection and management, information sharing** and **identification** of the ~400 alien plant species recorded in Kruger. The first outcome will be an open-access information system developed and managed by SAEON<sup>1</sup>, SANParks<sup>2</sup> and Cirad<sup>3</sup>. It links **PI@ntNet's collaborative platform** with computer-aided identification (**IDAO**) technology that reconstructs species identity and conveys data-based information to users.

PI@ntNet

On **PI@ntNet's** web portal, registered members can **share information**, relevant documents, and images, as well as entertain discussions relating to alien plants. Users also have access to the **IDAO** application and species records lodged in the project database.



IDAO

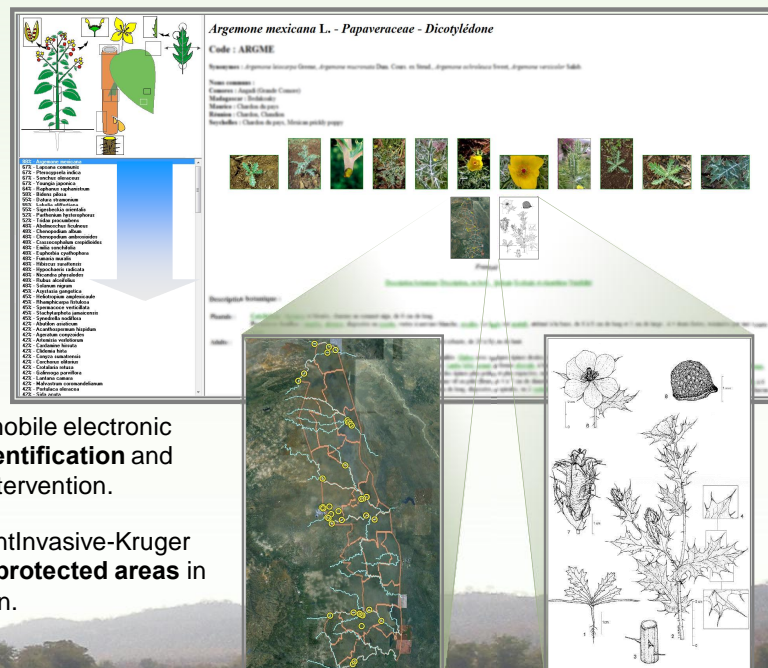
**Step-wise choices** of simple, alternative schematics guide users in constructing a species **identikit** that is based on *in situ* vegetative and reproductive morphologies, and habit and habitat characteristics.

**Identification** is expressed as the **percent similarity** of the unknown specimen to type specimen information lodged in the database. Supporting text, images and maps of candidate species can be accessed by users to confirm identification. Confusion with **indigenous species**, synonyms and eradication protocols are highlighted.



PI@ntNet's web portal and the IDAO application are compatible with a range of mobile electronic devices, allowing **on-site identification** and **immediate management** intervention.

The collaborative information system set-up for PI@ntInvasive-Kruger will, in the future, be expanded to incorporate **other protected areas** in southern Africa for regional and national collaboration.



[community.plantnet-project.org](http://community.plantnet-project.org)

